

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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UNCLAS PRETORIA 4646

ATTENTION: IAA,

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS BEGINS SERIES ON NSSM 39

PRETORIA NEWS AND JOHANNESBURG STAR TODAY BEGAN A SERIES OF ARTICLES DEALING WITH NSSM 39. HEADLINING THE FIRST INSTALLMENT " AMERICA WITHOUT ANY DOUBLETALK" PRETORIA NEWS ADVISES " THE INNERMOST SECRETS OF AMERICA'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH SOUTHERN AFRICA HAVE BEEN EXPOSED AS NEVER BEFORE IN A CLASSIFIED 71 PAGE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM WHICH HAS COME INTO THE POSSESSION OF KEN OWEN, THE WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT OF THE PRETORIA NEWS." ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE " EXCERPTS FROM THE MEMORANDUM, TOGETHER WITH SOME ANALYSIS OF THE MATERIAL WILL BE PUBLISHED... IN THE SERIES." NOTING THAT SECTIONS OF THE MEMORANDUM HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED RECENTLY IN WASHINGTON CONCENTRATING ON THE SHIFT OF POLICY IN 1970, TODAY'S ARTICLE CLAIMS " THE FULL TEXT REVEALS MUCH MORE THAN THE CONTENT OF THE NEW POLICY." SO CALLED DISCLOSURES CITED BY THE ARTICLE ARE:

"THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS AN OBSESSIVE CONCERN WITH THE DANGER THAT RACIAL CONFLICTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WILL OPEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNIST PENETRATION OF AFRICA;"

" THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS AN EQUALLY OBSESSIVE CONCERN ABOUT AMERICA'S IMAGE AND ITS " CREDIBILITY" IN BLACK AFRICA, THAT SPRINGS PARTLY FROM SENSITIVITY AND DEFENSIVENESS ABOUT ITS OWN RACIAL PROBLEMS;"

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" THE U.S. RETAINS, DESPITE MANY DISCLAIMERS, A MILITARY INTEREST IN SOUTH AFRICA'S STRATEGIC LOCATION ON THE CAPE ROUTE, IN OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS FOR ITS MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND IN SHIP REPAIR FACILITIES ASHORE-- DESPITE THE BAN ON NAVAL VISITS TO SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS;"

"HOWEVER, THE U.S. DOES NOT PERCEIVE ITS INTERESTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA TO BE VITAL TO ITS OWN SECURITY AND A GLOOMY VIEW PREVAILS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT -- INCLUDING PENTAGON AND CIA -- THAT THE RACIAL PROBLEMS OF THE AREA WILL PROBABLY GROW MORE ACUTE AS TIME PASSES;"

"THE U.S. PERCEIVES A RISK THAT THE RACIAL CONFLICT WILL LEAD TO A VIOLENT INTERNATIONAL UPRISING WITH COMMUNIST INTERVENTION, AND IS ANXIOUS TO AVOID BEING DRAWN INTO ANY SUCH CONFLICT".

THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES:

"THE VALUE OF THE STUDY IS THAT IT IS FREE OF DIPLOMATIC NICETIES AND AMBIGUITIES. WHERE MOST PUBLIC STATEMENTS, AND MANY DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES ARE ADDRESSED TO VARIOUS AUDIENCES-- THE UNITED NATIONS, THE AMERICAN NEGRO POPULATION, THE CONGRESS, THE AFRICAN STATES AS WELL AS THE WHITE-RULED STATES-- THE MEMORANDUM IS BLUNT AND TO THE POINT."

" SINCE IT SEPARATES SUBSTANCES FROM POSTURES, DEFINES INTERESTS, SPELLS OUT DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, ARGUES 'PROS AND CONS', IT IS AN INCOMPARABLE AND A SOUND GUIDE TO AMERICAN THINKING ON SOUTHERN AFRICA."

STAR ARTICLE ESSENTIALLY IDENTICAL.

PETERSON

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## Message Attributes

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